RMP Ground Rules
Cariboo-Chilcotin Region
2002/03

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of ground rules is to clearly define regional commitments of Forest Renewal BC, Ministry of Forests, and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in the development of Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The ground rules are applicable to RMP components which deal with three Forest Renewal BC Strategic Objectives (sustainable harvest, enhance environmental values, and strengthen sustainable forest management).

Ground rules are intended to:

Confirm preliminary Forest Renewal budget allocations;
Confirm provincial and regional performance measures;
Confirm regional specifics for RMP format, content, process, and time lines, within the overall framework of provincial RMP guidelines;
Guide partner involvement in the RMP process;
Guide communication and conflict resolution in the RMP process.

Background

The Province of BC produces RMPs through co-operation among Forest Renewal BC (FRBC), Ministry of Forests (MoF) and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP). FRBC funds MoF and MELP for development of the RMP.

Roles and Responsibilities

"MoF and MELP, as stewardship agencies, are responsible for identification and prioritization of resource management investment opportunities, and for development of the written RMP document. This includes involvement of agreement holders and others with relevant technical expertise.

FRBC, as an investment agency, is responsible for selection of investments and for ensuring overall accountability of these investments. This includes informing interested parties (industry, labour, First Nations, environment, community, and government organizations) about the overall process and opportunities for involvement."

Critical Dates

- **May 31st** — Confirm Ground Rules
- **JUNE 1st** — RMP meetings start
- **JULY 31st:** — Draft RMP complete
- **AUGUST 15th** — Draft RMP to participants and invited stakeholders for review
- **SEPTEMBER 1st:** — Final comments on draft to local MoF co-ordinator
- **SEPTEMBER 28th:** — **Final RMP** To FRBC

Preliminary Budget Allocations

The following information is based on the 2001/02 FRBC budget. This is an approximation for planning purposes only.

2001/02 Allocation		MYA Allocation	Quesnel Allocation	W. Lake Allocation	100 Mile H Allocation	AA Allocation
EF	$3.943	$2.620	$0.964	$1.177	$0.480	$1.323
BL	$5.473	$4.830	$1.777	$2.169	$0.884	$0.643
EEV	$2.732	$2.732	$1.003	$1.228	$0.501	$0.000
SSFM	$4.811	$3.750	$1.379	$1.684	$0.687	$1.061

Provincial and Regional Performance Measures

1. **Sustainable Harvest** – *Forest Renewal BC will invest in the production of faster growing, higher quality stands of second growth timber on lands available for timber production.*
   a) Programs to put more land into timber production (Backlog Reforestation);
   b) Programs to maximise the volume, value, and health of second growth forests (Enhanced Forestry);
   c) Programs which support the application of forest level plans in silviculture decision making (models, tools and research).

   Key Target: ***Over the Planning period, 1999-2004, Forest Renewal investments in sustainable harvest will increase the timber available for potential future harvest by 25 million cubic metres.***

Regional Target:

1. For the planning period 1999-2004 the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional investments in sustainable harvest will increase the timber available for harvest by 2.1 million cubic metres. This will mean a target of 420,000 m3 per year.
2. The economic value of timber on all enhanced forestry treatment areas in the Cariboo Chilcotin Region will be increased by 5 to 30 per cent.
3. Based on the March 6, 2001 Provincial "Barber Model" and the following MYA investments in Enhanced Forestry and Backlog Reforestation, the RMP will meet an annual target of 420,000 m3 increase in available timber, in the Cariboo region.

	E.F. funds	Backlog funds
100 Mile House TSA	$ 479,854	$ 884,373
Williams Lake TSA	$1,176,703	$2,168,670
Quesnel TSA	$$ 964,163	$1,776,957

The RMP will identify the amount of each activity, expected costs and expected outputs by licensee within each TSA. This will be reflected in the workplans of the licensees.

Roles and Responsibilities

Lead:

The Ministry of Forests will lead the SH RMP process Guy Newsome is the Ministry of Forests contact. The RMP planning process will take the form of meetings in the three TSA in the Cariboo region, and will include Guy Newsome as the lead, Ministry of Forests District staff, and Licensee staff. Investment levels for Enhanced Forestry and Backlog have been identified for each TSA, and the RMP will plan within 10% of the indicated levels, and target a regional increase of 600,000 m3 of available timber.

The final product of the RMP will indicate expected area of each activity by licensee, expected costs by activity, and expected output of available timber.

Timeframes:

May 15	Tables and Guidelines E Mailed to MYA holders
June 15	First cut of tables to MoF
July 31	Draft RMP
Sept 28	Final RMP to FRBC

2. **Enhance Environment Values** - *Forest Renewal BC will invest in restoring forest watersheds and in promoting environmental stewardship and strong environmental*

values in B.C.'s forests.

Key Target: ***Over the planning period 1999-2004, Forest Renewal BC will work with its partners to complete the restoration of 20 per cent of the highest priority watersheds that have been damaged or seriously threatened by past forest development activities.***

Regional Target:

1. The RMP has identified 102 watersheds as "High Priority" for protection of fish habitat and water quality within the Cariboo Region. From this list FRBC has targeted 20 watersheds for restoration in the first five years. A further prioritization of the 102 watersheds will assist FRBC in future designation of Target Watersheds.

2. Approximately the following funds will be allocated annually to each TSA as a planning target to achieve the strategic objective of restoring 20 target watersheds by 2004.

100 Mile House TSA	$ 501,117
Williams Lake TSA	$1,228,604
Quesnel TSA	$1,003,129

Roles and Responsibilities:

Lead:

The lead agency for the WRP RMP will be MELP, and Doug Krogel will be the MELP contact. The MoF staff will include Bruce MacFarlane, and representatives from the Forest Districts. The planning process will take the form of agency meetings to clarify the ranking of the high priority key watersheds in the region, and then meetings with the stakeholder industry staff to ensure their input to the priorization process.

Timeframes:

(Example only)

Guidelines	May 31
Agency/MYA Meetings	June 1-10
First Draft of RMP	July 31
Review by Licensees	Sept 4
Final RMP to FRBC	Sept 28

3. **Strengthen Sustainable Forest Management (Enhance Knowledge)** – *Forest Renewal BC will invest in the development of relevant, usable, timely information and tools keyed to achieving sustainable forest management.*

   a) Programs that identify and develop the information and tools needed to create better strategic resource plans and make better strategic decisions (e.g. strategic inventories, research and CLUPE);

   b) Innovative Forest Practices Agreements and Enhanced Forest Management Pilot Projects—Although not specifically addressed in the Strategic Plan, these programs work toward the development of relevant, usable, and timely information and tools in achieving Sustainable Forest Management. These programs also have activities that fall within the other two Strategic Objectives. These programs will be dealt with in the Investment Planning Process as programs separate from the others identified (BL, EFP, WRP, OIP).

Key Target: ***Over the planning period 1999-2004, Forest Renewal BC will work with its partners to identify and address key gaps in knowledge for sustainable forest management.***

Regional Target:

Over the planning period 1999-2004, Forest Renewal BC will work with its partners to identify high priority issues, and address key gaps in knowledge important to progressing toward addressing these issues, with the objective of attaining sustainable forest management in the Cariboo Chilcotin Region.

The 2002/03 RMP will develop a strategic plan which will enable FRBC to identify regional targets towards addressing priority issues

Roles and Responsibilities:

Lead:

The Ministry of Forests will take the lead role in the development of the SSFM RMP, the Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks and other technically competent stakeholders will actively participate on the planning team.. Ray Leduc will be the contact for the Ministry of Forests and Doug Krogel will be the MELP contact. The Planning Team will be asked to develop a strategic regional plan to address specific issues.

Using the prioritized list of regional issues and sub-issues, identified by the senior managers, the planning team will develop strategies and a list of projects to address

the issues, and sub-issues. The projects will include expected costs, and the list of projects will be made into a three to five year strategic plan.

The planning level of funding for SSFM in the Cariboo Chilcotin Region is $4,811,000, of which $3,749,708 is MYA funds and $1,061,292 is annual funds.

Timeframes:

May 14	Senior managers committee identify issues
May 17	Planning team first meeting
May 31	Issues identified
June 25	Knowledge strategies identified
June 29	Projects identified
July 15	1st draft completed
July 31	Final draft to regional agency executive

Principles and Expectations for Partner Involvement

The ministries will be responsible to see that all appropriate, technically competent partners are offered the opportunity to participate in the planning of the RMP.

FRBC will ensure that all interested partners are offered the opportunity to participate in the development and evaluation of workplans, at the planning unit tables.

FRBC may coordinate an annual review, including invitation to government, First Nations, community, industry, labour, and environmental organizations to review key documents and to provide feedback on the overall process and results (making it clear that finalized RMPs and investment plans will not be revised). Ministries will participate in the review process as resource people.

Reporting on Partner Involvement

RMPs will include appendices indicating names and organizations of people on planning teams, people invited to provide input and/or feedback, and people who actually did provide input/feedback (by Strategic Objective). Ministries will retain all documentation of partner involvement, such as meeting minutes, submissions of input and feedback received, notes on comments received by phone, etc. This information will be sent to the FRBC region along with the final RMP.

Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee is composed of: MoF staff, Brian Smith, Guy Newsome, Ray Leduc, MELP staff, Doug Krogel, and Stan Gripich the FRBC contact

The Steering Committee will:

- co-ordinate communication;

- filter out issues;
- deal with conflict resolution;
- ensure consistency of format and content.

Participation and Attendance:

- Ministry leading the process (MoF) will request participation of stakeholders (licensees) with timelines appropriate to the reasonable completion of the RMP's.
- Participants must provide input in a timely fashion where provided with reasonable opportunity to participate in the process.
- The Ministries will document both the level of participation and opportunities provided to stakeholders, and include this documentation in the progress report (per attached Matrix) and final RMP.

Consultation:

- Participants in this RMP process will provide technical information consistent with the RMP guidelines.
- The licensees will use the RMP information to develop their individual workplans.

- **Feedback:**
- The draft RMP will be fed back to the participants (**by August 15 th)**
- Participants to respond back with final comments (**by September 4th)**

Consultation Reports:

- A summary of participant consultation will be provided to Forest Renewal by the Ministries in conjunction with the submission of the RMP. The summary may be provided on the attached participant matrix.

Conflict Resolution Guidelines

Conflict Resolution will follow these steps:

1/ The RMP lead will attempt to resolve all conflict by using constructive, interest based negotiation.

2/ The first level of review and resolution will be by the steering committee.

3/ The final level of review and resolution will be by the senior regional managers of MoF, MELP, and FRBC

Signatures

Regional Manager
Ministry of Forests
Cariboo Region

Regional Director
Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks
Cariboo Region

Regional Director
Forest Renewal BC
Cariboo Chilcotin Region

Appendix 2:
Principles for Partner Involvement in Resource Management and Investment Planning

The following ten principles are designed to support sound partner involvement in resource management and investment planning. Practices which reflect these principles will be defensible in terms of widely accepted planning process standards.

1. Higher Level Plans

RMPs and investment plans are consistent with higher level plans. Participants in LRMPs (Land and Resource Management Plans) and Strategic Land Use Plans are invited to participate in annual evaluations of the overall resource management and investment planning.

> Performance measure: participants in annual evaluations indicate that RMPs and investment plans are consistent with the intent of higher level plans.

2. Who Is Invited

Those who have relevant technical expertise are invited to participate in development of RMPs, and **industry, labour, First Nations, environment, community, and government organizations** are invited to participate at one or more other stage(s) of the planning cycle.

> Performance measure: RMP appendices show that those with relevant technical expertise were invited to provide input and feedback in RMP development; documentation by FRBC shows that government, First Nations, community, industry, labour, and environmental organizations were invited to participate in investment planning and/or in evaluation of the overall process.

3. Process Transparency

Interested parties are informed of process context. Parties being invited to contribute input and/or feedback are informed of how such information will be used and how it fits into the overall planning cycle. FRBC informs ministries of criteria used in investment planning.

Performance measures: participants indicate that they felt well informed about the process context and the planned use of their input/feedback; ministries indicate adequate understanding of investment planning criteria.

4. Degree of Involvement

The degree of involvement being invited at various stages is explicit. People are informed of whether their role is to provide advice, or to directly participate in decision making. Providing information without intent to use input/feedback is not involvement.

Performance measure: participants indicate a clear understanding of the level(s) of involvement being invited.

5. Diversity of Opportunities

There are a variety of opportunities for involvement. Planning processes are designed to accommodate the diverse ways that people receive and provide information and the variety of desired levels of involvement.

Performance measure: individuals within categories of intended participants indicate that they perceived appropriate options in the type and level of their involvement.

6. Plain Language

Technical terms and acronyms are defined or explained. To create fair opportunities for participation, technical terms and acronyms are clearly defined and/or explained in plain language.

Performance measure: plans and presentation materials are tested on non-experts and necessary clarifications are made.

7. Utility

Involvement in planning is designed to be productive. Input and feedback is gathered when there are clear intentions and plans for use of that information.

Performance measure: input and feedback is systematically documented, analyzed, and considered in decision making.

8. Public Accountability

Planning processes are designed to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of public investments in resource management. Agreement holders and other invited parties provide input and feedback for the purpose of contributing to the public interest.

Performance measure: government agencies observe a shift of planning focus from inputs and private interests to outcomes and the public interest.

9. Closing the Loop

The communication loop gets closed. Feedback/input is thoroughly documented and made available to participants. Participants are informed of how their input/feedback has been used.

Performance measure: each effort to gather opinion is followed by efforts to inform participants of findings and how these have been used.

10. Process Development

Planning processes are continuously improved. Interested parties are invited to provide input and feedback on the planning process itself.

Performance measure: process evaluation is included as a component in each involvement exercise.

Appendix 3:
Definitions

Partner. In the context of RMP ground rules, a "partner" may be an agreement holder, contractor, or other interested party. FRBC has identified five categories of partners, as follows: government, First Nations, community, industry, labour, and environmental organizations

Agreement Holder. An organization which is under contract to provide services on behalf of FRBC.

Contractor. An organization which is under contract with an agreement holder to provide services on behalf of FRBC.

Involvement. Provision of input or feedback as part of a planning process.

Feedback. Comment provided in reaction to draft material (e.g., a draft plan) as part of a planning process.

Input. Comment provided, typically early in a planning process, which is not a reaction to draft material.

Performance measure. In the context of RMP ground rules, "performance measure" refers to specific objectives to be achieved, typically within specified time frames, relative to FRBC Strategic Objectives.

Geographic units. For various Strategic Objectives, geographic units or levels of planning may be FRBC regions, MoF districts, TSAs (Timber Supply Areas), and/or TFLs (Tree Farm Licenses).

Note: should any of the definitions provided here be inconsistent with definitions in services agreements between FRBC, MoF, and MELP, the definitions in services agreements will stand.